

## REMARKS

### CLAIMS:

Claims 1-39 are pending in the application. All of the original claims 1-13 have been rejected. Claims 1-13 have been amended as indicated above. Dependent claims 14-39 are new. Only claims 1 and 8 are independent.

### CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§102 AND 103:

Original claims 1 and 3-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by McNamara et al. (U.S. Patent 5,805,458). Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McNamara et al. in view of Young (U.S. Patent 5,721,659).

Independent claims 1 and 8 have both been amended to recite “creating a forecast of electric power consumption for a predetermined period of time using a computer system wherein the computer system is used in the creation of a forecast based on usage for a portion of the predetermined period of time.” This feature is supported by the Applicant’s specification at least at page 10, lines 3-24. Neither McNamara et al., nor Young, nor any of the other cited references teach or suggest this limitation. Accordingly, the Applicants submits that independent claims 1 and 8 are now in condition for allowance. Claims 2-7 and 9-39 depend from patentable claims 1 and 8, and as such include all of the limitations of patentable claims 1 and 8, rendering them patentable also.

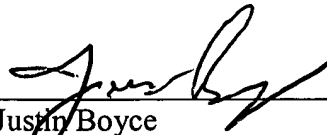
CONCLUSION

Thus, in light of the above, having responded to each and every ground of rejection, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in the above-mentioned application and respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

DECHERT LLP

Dated: May 11, 2005

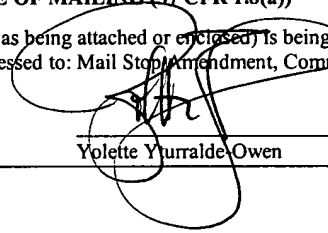
  
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8(a))**

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on May 11, 2005, with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450.

Date May 11, 2005

  
Yvette Yurralde Owen